

15 March 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Collection and Dissemination

SUBJECT: Availability of Transcripts of National War College Lectures

1. On 14 March 1950, in accordance with your request, I called on Colonel Werner, the Executive Officer, National War College, to determine whether there was any possibility of a change in present NWC policy concerning the availability of transcripts of lectures. I explained to him the consequences of the present policy as far as CIA is concerned and asked him if it were possible for the Agency to be provided with two copies of each lecture for retention. His reply was to the effect that in his opinion it was impracticable to change the present policy. His statement, of course, does not prevent the Director from making a formal request on the Commandant, but in view of the reasons given me by Colonel Werner, I do not think we would get a different answer.

2. Colonel Werner did say that there is no objection to our requesting extensions of the 15-day loan periods where certain transcripts are in great demand within the Agency. Such requests for extension will always be honored provided other demands upon the National War College for particular transcripts have been satisfied. Also Colonel Werner said that we can always ask to have transcripts a second time.

3. During the conversation, I discovered that the policy of the NWC concerning attendance at lectures is to limit attendance to those individuals who really need the information in their current work. Also, since the NWC is a high level educational institution, it is the policy to confine the individuals attending lectures to officers and officials of the lieutenant colonel - commander - GS 13 level, or higher. Exceptions are made occasionally to admit individuals of lower rank, but a specific decision is made in each case, based on a statement from the employing agency that it is essential that the individual attend.

4. It seems to me that in circulating transcripts within CIA, we are bound to honor the policy used by the NWC for admitting personnel to the lectures. In other words, nobody should be permitted to see a transcript who could not have attended the lecture it reports. In following this policy, OCD might be able to reduce the number of individuals allowed to see the transcripts to such an extent that the present situation where the transcripts are so greatly in demand could be eased somewhat.

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